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10 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/DE99/02339
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INVENTION: "METHOD FOR PRODUCING INTEGRATED SEMICONDUCTOR COMPONENTS"

15 Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

In accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that a citation and examination of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 be made during the course of the examination of the above-identified application.

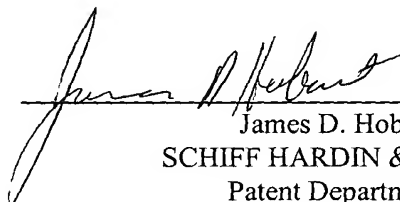
25 In the International Search Report mailed April 17, 2000, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,240,872 and 5,856,219 along with European 0 439 965 were cited in Category X for the originally-filed claims.

The Search Report also cited, in Category A, which is technical background, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,629,539 and 5,773,341 along with German 197 45 856 and the Abstract from Patent Abstracts of Japan for Japanese Published Application 09-162387. Copies of these four references are also attached herewith.

5 In addition, applicants are attaching a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,930,618, which appears to correspond to the German Reference, although it is noted that it does not claim priority from the German Reference.

In view of the holding in the Preliminary Examination Report dated October 30, 2001 that claims 1-8 were allowable, it is submitted that claims 9-17 are
10 patentable over these references and are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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